

LOOK  
14 May 1968

Orig Filed  
under Scal.

Scali, John  
P. Uris, Leon  
Soc. 4.01.2 Topaz  
De Vosjoli, Thyroud  
Philby, Harold (Kim)  
Paget, George  
C.I.P. 1.01 Helms, Richard  
C.I.P. 1.01 DeLoach, John D.

# THE SPIES AROUND DE GAULLE

BY JOHN SCALI

Leon Uris first presented the story, slightly disguised, in his best-selling novel, *Topaz*. Some critics argued that the plot was incredible. Now, the noted diplomatic correspondent who served as a go-between during the Cuban missile crisis reveals the facts about one of the most bizarre espionage cases of the century—

A TOP FRENCH INTELLIGENCE CHIEF has defected to the United States because he believes Gen. Charles de Gaulle's government is so riddled with Soviet spies that it represents a grave threat to Western civilization.

He now lives quietly in a Southern city, in a home guarded by two huge dogs. He fears assassination, but hopes that someday the French people will vindicate him for his unprecedented action.

This bizarre case, which forms the backbone of Leon Uris's novel *Topaz*, has spread an atmosphere of increasing bitterness and acrimony around French-American relations. Both sides have kept the backstage dispute secret, fearing that public disclosure might shatter the fragile diplomatic relations between the two governments.

The defector is Philippe Thyroud de Vosjoli, 49, a French Secret Service officer who was attached to the French Embassy in Washington for 12 years. Although he was listed only as an "attaché," he actually was

chief of French intelligence in Washington, the operating head of a French spy ring in Cuba, and his government's top representative on the Atlantic Pact intelligence board.

De Vosjoli resigned all these positions in disgust October 18, 1963. He dispatched a secret seven-page letter to President de Gaulle, charging that nothing was being done to root out Soviet agents in the French Government. These agents had been exposed by a high-ranking Russian intelligence chief who had defected to the West.

De Vosjoli is understood to believe that Soviet agents, operating under the code name "Sapphire," penetrated both De Gaulle's immediate entourage and the French Secret Service, and fed De Gaulle phony information to induce him to adopt anti-American policies. The Soviet defector who disclosed the existence of the ring, and also pinpointed some 200 Soviet agents in Western countries, is a former headquarters chief in